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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/757,213	01/13/2004	Jean Rovegno	10623.48US01	6485
23552	7590	06/01/2005	EXAMINER	
MERCHANT & GOULD PC P.O. BOX 2903 MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-0903			SMITH, PHILIP ROBERT	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3739	

DATE MAILED: 06/01/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/757,213

Applicant(s)

ROVEGNO, JEAN

Examiner

Philip R. Smith

Art Unit

3739

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 May 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-37 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 9, 10, 15 and 16 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8, 11, 14 and 17-30 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 12, 13 and 31-37 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☒ ~~Some~~ * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 1/13/2004.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

- [01] Claim 31 is objected to because of the following informalities: the phrase --opening out tangentially to the cylindrical surface-- is grammatically improper. Appropriate correction is required. --opening out tangentially from the cylindrical surface—is suggested.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. 112, Paragraph Two

- [02] The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

- [03] Claims 5 & 11-20 recite “the videoendoscope probe.” There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. “A videoendoscope” is found in claim 1, as well as “an inspection probe.” For the purposes of examination, the term --videoendoscope probe-- will be interpreted --videoendoscope-- where it appears explicitly in claims 5, 11, & 18-19.
- [04] Claims 23-24 recite “the width of the pulses in the control signals.” There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Claim 21 recites “control signals”; claim 22 recites controls signals “each being in the form of a pulse train, with the width of the pulses corresponding...” Claims 23-24 currently incorporate claim 21; they will be examined as if they incorporate claim 22 as well.
- [05] Claim 24 recites “the control input means.” There is insufficient antecedent basis

for this limitation in the claim. Claim 24 will be examined as if "the command input means" introduced in claim 21 was the intended structure.

- [06] Claims 25-26 recite "each of the two control members." There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. Claims 25-26 will be examined as if "each of the two command input members" introduced in claim 21 were the intended structures.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

- [07] The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

- [08] Claims 1-2, 5-7, 21 & 27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rovegno (6,315,712), patented 13 November 2001.

- [09] *With regard to claim 1:* Rovegno discloses a videoendoscope comprising

[09a] an inspection probe comprising an inspection tube ("flexible inspection tube 2," column 12/ line 52) having a distal endpiece ("distal terminal 1," 12/42) housing an optoelectronic imaging device ("color CCD sensor 26," 12/44) delivering an electrical signal;

[09b] a video processor ("video processor 9," 13/43) for processing the electrical signal delivered by the imaging device ("electrical signal generated by the

CCD sensor," 13/52-53) in order to generate a video signal ("video signal," 13/63);

- [09c] a control handle comprising a control unit (comprising "control handle 3," "box 4," & "cylindrical tubular handle 5," 13/1-17) secured to the proximal end of the inspection tube ("... fixedly integral ...," 12/55-57) and provided with means for controlling and adjusting the video processor ("functioning parameters of the video processor 9 are adjusted...", 13/5-7);
- [09d] an umbilical connection cable ("umbilical cable 6," 13/18) having a distal end secured to the control unit (13/15-18) for connecting the videoendoscope to a light source ("commonplace external light generator," 13/22) and to an electrical power supply ("electrical energy source," 13/25-26);
- [09e] a display unit including a video display screen ("flat video color monitor 10," 13/4) connected to the video processor in order to display the video signal (13/63-65); and
- [09f] a bundle of lighting fibers ("optical fibers 20," 14/19-20) integrated without interruption in the umbilical cable, in the control handle, and then in the inspection tube, and having a distal end housed in the distal endpiece that serves to light a target observed by the probe when a proximal end of the umbilical cable is connected to a light generator (14/21-30);
- [09g] wherein the display unit is secured to a side face of the control unit ("fixedly

integral with the distal face of a box 4," 13/1-2), the control unit having a control panel ("panel of sensitive keys 13," 13/6) on a top face and carrying control members ("sensitive keys 13," 13/6) comprising said means for controlling and adjusting the video processor. The control unit disclosed by Rovegno has an elongate shape as described ("cylindrical handle 5") which is inherently suitable for being held in one hand. Considering the relative dispositions of the "sensitive keys 13" and "control handle 5" (Fig. 1), it is clear that the control members may inherently be actuated by using the thumb of said hand.

[10] *With regard to claim 2:* The umbilical cable connected to the control unit is inherently disclosed via a side face thereof.

[11] *With regard to claims 5-6:* As noted above, the proximal end of the umbilical cable connects the videoendoscope probe to an electrical power supply. Rovegno further discloses a connection unit ("connection device 7") fitted with connection means for connection to the proximal end of the bundle of lighting fibers and to a light generator ("axial cylindrical terminal 8," 13/19-22), and connection means for connecting the videoendoscope probe to an electrical power supply ("coupling 12," 13/24-26). A certain mode of operation allows for controlling initialization of the video processor as a function of the color temperature of the lamp of the light generator ("AUTO LOCK" mode," 14/15) and the disclosed connection unit "allow[s] for connecting the video endoscopic probe to a non-specific light generator" (14/20-21).

Art Unit: 3739

[12] *With regard to claim 7:* Rovegno discloses that the video processor is included in the control unit (13/2-3).

[13] *With regard to claims 21 & 27:* Rovegno further discloses

[13a] that the control unit further comprises an electromechanical device designed to deform a deformable distal bending section ("prop 15," 12/58-59) integrated in the distal end of the inspection tube in order to steer the distal end of the inspection tube and thus steer the observation window of the probe, the electromechanical device comprising two motors ("two motorized actuators," claim 19) actuating the distal bending section via two respective pairs of cables ("cables 17," 12/59) for steering the distal end of the inspection tube in two respective planes (12/61-64). The two motors inherently require a processor delivering two control signals that are applied respectively.

[13b] a command input means ("joystick," claim 20) which inherently comprises two command input members connected to the processor to input commands intended for the two motors respectively, each of the two command members having a first state in which the processor controls the corresponding motor to keep the orientation of the distal end of the inspection tube fixed, and second and third states in which the processor controls the respective motor to cause the distal end of the inspection tube to vary its orientation respectively in one direction and in the opposite direction ("four degrees of freedom," claim 20).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

- [14] The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

- [15] Claims 3-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rovegno in view of Green (5,928,137), published 27 July 1999.
- [16] Rovegno discloses the entirety of claim 1, upon which claims 3-4 depend. In addition, Rovegno discloses that the display unit is electrically coupled to the control unit. Rovegno does not disclose a hinge which secures the display unit to the control unit.
- [17] Green discloses a display unit ("display 30," 6/66) which is secured to the control unit via a connector ("ball and socket 95") providing releasable (7/2) mechanical and electrical connection between the display unit and the control unit and enabling the display screen to be tilted about an axis perpendicular to the side face of the control unit. It is clear from Fig. 1 that the display unit is electrically coupled to the control unit by means of electrical conductors passing through the hinge.
- [18] At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary

skill in the art that Rovegno's display unit be attached by a hinge. Green provides motivation in 7/15-16: "The display 30 is adjustably attached to the mounting means by a ball and socket 95, with which the endoscopist may reposition the display for optimum viewing."

Additional Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

[19] Claims 11, 14, & 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rovegno in view of Yokota (2003/0060681), published 27 March 2003.

[20] *With regard to claim 11:* Rovegno discloses the entirety of claim 5, upon which claim 11 depends. This includes a videoendoscope comprising an umbilical cable secured

[20a] via its distal end to a control unit provided with means for controlling and adjusting the video processor.

[20b] via its proximal end to a connection unit comprising connection means to a light generator and a power supply:

[21] Rovegno does not disclose

[21a] a connection means (composing the connection unit) for connecting the probe to a system for processing and/or storing images, the videoendoscope probe further comprising

[21b] a switch means (composing the videoendoscope) designed to deliver to the video screen either the video signal coming from the video processor or the video signal coming from the system for processing and/or storing images.

[22] Yokota discloses the following:

[0158] Since the instrumentation endoscope apparatus 10 is generally in a state in which the subject is photographed (live video image display state), the user presses the instrumentation executing switch 51 of the remote controller 13 and then the CPU 26 controls the video signal processing device 33 so as to display the still image. A routine program for the still image as shown in FIGS. 14A and 14B is executed.

[0159] The instrumentation endoscope apparatus can select the image from a list of a plurality of images recorded to the PCMCIA memory card 22 (not shown) by vertically moving the lever switch 48. Thereafter, by pressing the instrumentation executing switch 51 of the remote controller 13, the CPU 26 allows the routine program for the selected image as shown in FIGS. 14A and 14B to be executed.

[23] As shown, Yokota discloses a number of structures which are analogous to those disclosed by Rovegno:

[23a] a control unit ("remote controller 13")

[23b] an umbilical cord (Fig. 1).

[23c] a video processor (comprising "CPU 26" and "video signal processing device 33")

[24] Yokota further discloses

[24a] a system for processing and/or storing images ("memory card 22").

[24b] a switch means ("instrumentation executing switch 51") designed to deliver to the video screen either the video signal coming from the video processor or the video signal coming from the system for processing and/or storing images.

[24c] some inherent connection means between the system for processing and/or storing images and the display ("LCD 14," Fig. 1).

[25] At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art that

[25a] Rovegno's videoendoscope include a system for processing and/or storing images

[25b] Rovegno's control unit include a switch means for enabling display of stored images.

[26] Rovegno provides motivation to a skilled artisan in [0061]: "when any of the above memory cards is attached, the control unit 12 can read data on control processing information or image information." Given Yokota's image storage system, it is clearly advantageous to further provide a switch for accessing stored images.

[27] *With regard to claims 14:* As noted above, the switch means disclosed by Yokota are integrated into a structure analogous to that of Rovegno's control unit ("remote controller 13").

[28] *With regard to claim 20:* Yokota's "remote controller 13," disclosed above as having switch means inherently includes a control handle having a means for controlling the switch means.

Additional Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

[29] Claims 17-18 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rovegno in view of Yokota, and in further view of Steinberg (5,630,783) patented 20 May 1997.

[30] *With regard to claim 18:* Rovegno in view of Yokota discloses the entirety of claim

11, upon which 18 depends, but does not disclose an auxiliary power supply.

- [31] It is well known to provide an auxiliary power supply in an endoscope in order to ensure safe completion of an examination or to recharge a primary power supply.

Steinberg, for example, discloses the latter in column 5/33-40:

...Additionally, the removable battery housing can be substituted with, or used in conjunction with, an electrical power lead interconnected with household current via, for example, a low voltage transformer (not shown). Such a transformer can provide auxiliary power and/or be used to recharge the battery without removing the pack from the unit.

- [32] *With regard to claim 17:* The primary power supply disclosed by Steinberg is inherently capable of association with a system for processing and/or storing images.

Additional Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

- [33] Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rovegno in view of Yokota, and in further view of Kovalcheck (5,549,542) patented 27 August 1996.

- [34] Rovegno in view of Yokota discloses the entirety of claim 11, upon which 19 depends, but does not disclose an auxiliary video monitor.

- [35] It is well known to provide an auxiliary video monitor in order to provide display for multiple viewers. Kovalcheck, for example discloses this in column 8/5-8:

The image of the target site is available through an eyepiece or, alternatively, the image may be transmitted to an auxiliary television monitor for more than one surgeon to observe.

- [36] Videoendoscope systems with auxiliary video monitors, such as that disclosed by Kovalcheck, inherently have a means for connecting the videoendoscope probe to

the auxiliary video monitor and a means for sending the video signal applied to the input of the primary video screen towards the connection means for connection to the auxiliary video monitor.

Additional Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

- [37] Claims 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rovegno in view of Wood, et al. (4,941,454), patented 17 July 1990. (Claims 21 & 27 were anticipated by Rovegno.)
- [38] *With regard to claims 21 & 27:* As did Rovegno, Wood discloses an electromechanical device ("servo control articulation system 10," 3/4-5) comprising two motors ("servo motors 18 and 20," 3/9) actuating the distal bending section via two respective pairs of cables ("wires 30 and 32" & "wires 30' and 32'") for steering the distal end of the inspection tube in two respective planes (3/14-21).
- [39] As did Rovegno, Wood discloses a command input means comprising two command input members ("two potentiometers 54 and 55" composing "joystick type actuator 40," 5/26-30) connected to a processor ("steering control board 36," 3/25-32) to input commands intended for the two motors respectively, each of the two command members having a first state in which the processor controls the corresponding motor to keep the orientation of the distal end of the inspection tube fixed (4/16-19), and second and third states (4/19-23) in which the processor controls the respective motor to cause the distal end of the inspection tube to vary its orientation respectively in one direction and in the opposite direction.

[40] *With regard to claim 22:* In addition to the analogous structures listed above, Wood further discloses that each of the motors is of the servo-motor type (3/9) actuating a pulley ("semi-circular quadrants 22 & 24," 3/10-11) coupled to a respective cable pair and of angular position that can be controlled by the respective control signal ("pulse, typically five volts, of a desired width which represents a particular angular position," 4/9-12) generated by the processor ("steering control board 36 which carries thereon a pulse generating circuit and a pulse width modulator section 62," 3/25-32) and applied to the motor, each control signal being in the form of a pulse train (4/29-32), with the width of the pulses corresponding to a determined angular position of the pulley (4/9-12), the processor comprising means for keeping the width of the pulses in each control signal constant so long as the respective control member is in its first state, and for increasing and decreasing the width of the pulses at a predefined speed whenever the corresponding control member is respectively in its second or third state (4/16-23, as noted above).

[41] *With regard to claim 23-24:* Wood discloses an additional control member ("joystick actuator 41," 4/22) integrated in the control panel and connected to the processor to cause the width of the pulses in the control signals applied to the motors to be controlled in such a manner as to be equal to a middle value ("neutral position" from which "the pulse width is decreased or increased," 4/19-20) corresponding to zero deformation ("straight position," 4/18) of the distal bending section. The disclosed additional control member is integrated into the command input means ("joystick actuator 40," as noted above).

[42] At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art that the structures of claim 21-30 (electromechanical device, processor, command input means, and composing structures thereof) anticipated by Rovegno's control unit be replaced by those disclosed by Wood. Wood provides the following motivation in 2/35-39: "It is a further object of the present invention to provide a servo motor control circuit for precisely rotating a servo motor the desired amount that allows the operator to precisely position the viewing head of the borescope using minimum power consumption."

Additional Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

[43] Claims 21, 25-26, 28 & 30 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rovegno in view of Hibino, et al. (4,982,725), patented 17 July 1990. (Claims 21 & 27 were anticipated by Rovegno.)

[44] *With further regard to claims 21 & 27:* As did Rovegno, Hibino discloses an electromechanical device ("oscillating wave motor unit 731") comprising two motors ("oscillating wave motor 732," 52/30) actuating the distal bending section via two respective pairs of cables ("bending operation wires 758," 53/22-25) for steering the distal end of the inspection tube in two respective planes (52/23-26).

[45] As did Rovegno, Hibino discloses a command input means ("switch part 721") comprising two command input members ("upward bending switch 721a" & "downward bending switch 721b" composing the first command input member, and "leftward bending switch 721c and rightward bending switch 721d" the second,

51/59-63) connected to a processor ("switch controlling part 767") to input commands intended for the two motors respectively (53/46-55), each of the two command members having a first state in which the processor controls the corresponding motor to keep the orientation of the distal end of the inspection tube fixed ("switch part 721" untouched), and second and third states ("upward bending switch 721a" depressed and "downward bending switch 721b" depressed, respectively) in which the processor controls the respective motor to cause the distal end of the inspection tube to vary its orientation respectively in one direction and in the opposite direction.

[46] *With regard to claims 25-26:* In addition to the analogous structures listed above, Hibino further discloses that each of the two command input members comprises a pair of contacts wherein one or other of the contacts being closed in the second ("logical signal "H" [when the upward bending switch 721a is pushed]," 55/19-21) and third ("logical signal "H" [when the downward bending switch 721b is pushed]," 55/60-53) states, and wherein both are open in the first state.

[47] *With regard to claim 28:* Hibino further discloses an additional control member ("bending speed setting switch 655," 42/2-3) integrated in a control panel to modify the speed at which the distal end of the inspection tube is steered by selecting a slow speed ("low speed (L)") or a fast speed ("high speed (H)," 42/60-68).

[48] *With regard to claim 30:* Hibino further discloses that a processor (further comprising "signal detecting part 804," 57/24-30) is programmed to determine the orientation of the distal end of the inspection tube as a function of the form of the

control signals applied respectively to two motors ("driving voltage fed to the oscillating wave motor 732"), and to display on a display screen ("monitor 763") symbols representing the determined orientation.

Additional Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

[49] Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Rovegno in view of Suzuki, et al. (5,658,238), patented 19 August 1997.

[50] Rovegno discloses the entirety of claim 21, upon which claim 29 depends.

Rovegno does not disclose that the processor is programmed to select a fast speed of variation for steering the distal end the inspection tube if at least one of the two control members is maintained in the second or third state for a duration longer than a predefined threshold, and to select a slow speed for varying the steering of the distal end of the inspection tube if both control members are in the first state.

[51] Suzuki discloses the following in 38/19-26:

In case one (for example, 543a) or two (for example, 543a and 543c) of the tact switches 543a to 543d are in the on-state, the current fed to the corresponding driving motors 521a or 521a and 521b in proportion to the time of the on-state will gradually increase and the curvature section 510 will curve in the instructed direction (because the outputs of the integrating circuits 565a to 565d become larger in proportion to the on-time).

[52] At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art that Rovegno's processor be enabled to vary the speed of variation for steering the distal end of the inspection tube such that better control of the distal tip is ensured, allowing more efficient viewing and less chance of injury to

the patient.

Allowable Subject Matter

[53] Claim 8 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

[54] *With regard to claim 8:* There was no disclosure in the prior art of opposing mechanical and electrical coupling means for fixing and electrically connecting a display unit to alternate side faces of a control unit.

[55] Claims 12-13 & 31-37 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the objections and/or rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112; 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

[56] *With regard to claim 12:* There was no disclosure in the prior art of the particularities of the connecting unit claimed by Applicant, which is fitted with multiple connection means for

[56a] connection to the proximal end of the bundle of lighting fibers and to a light generator;

[56b] connecting the videoendoscope probe to an electrical power supply;

[56c] connection means including a pin for transmitting the video signal generated by the video processor to a video input of the system for

processing and/or storing images, a pin for transmitting to the switch means a video signal generated by the system for processing and/or storing images, and a pin for connecting the control means of the control unit to a control interface of the system for processing and/or storing images.

[57] *With regard to claim 13:* There was no disclosure in the prior art of a switch suitable for immediate direction of stored video to a video display upon connection of a video storage means to a videoendoscope.

[58] *With regard to claim 31:* There were a number of disclosures in the prior art of a drum comprising a tubular cavity for receiving the *proximal end* of a wound probe. There was no disclosure in the prior art of a drum comprising a tubular cavity for receiving the *distal end* of a wound probe, which opens out tangentially from the cylindrical surface of the drum.

Conclusion

[59] The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

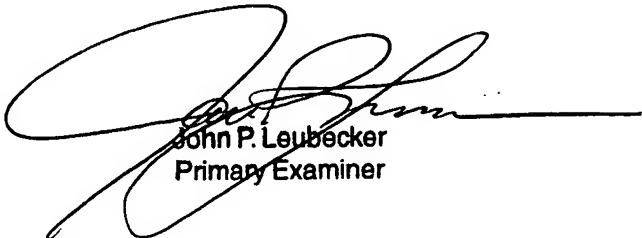
[59a] The following discloses LCD monitors: Adair (5,873,814).

[59b] The following disclose portable endoscopic devices with drum-wound probes: Costello (6,066,089), Hirata (6,540,670).

[59c] The following disclose control units: Motoki (2004/0133075), Salvati (5,373,317).

- [60] Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Philip R Smith whose telephone number is (571) 272 6087. The examiner can normally be reached on 10:00-6:00.
- [61] If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Linda Dvorak can be reached on (571) 272 4764. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.
- [62] Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Prs



John P. Leubecker
Primary Examiner